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SOME PLAIN STATEMENTS

ABOUT

IMMIGRATION, AND ITS RESULTS.

*Submitted at Annual Meeting of Dominion Board of Trade, held at Ottawa, January
17th, 1872.*

By WILLIAM J. PATTERSON, Secretary.

In one of the Preliminary Papers to the "Annual Report of the Trade and Commerce of Montreal, for 1866," a variety of statements were given relating to Immigration, with some collateral information. The following paragraphs formed the conclusion of that chapter:—

"Under Confederation, opportunity will be afforded for the inauguration of a new system for peopling the country—imitating in its details, as far as may be desirable, the policy of the United States. The flow of immigration can be directed to the Red River and Hudson's Bay country, when these regions are brought under the aegis of the new government; the Ottawa Country, and the back townships in Canada West, can sustain a large influx of population; the country north of Montreal, the Eastern Townships, the St. Maurice and the Saguenay regions, may yet be made to induce multitudes of settlers;—while the Maritime Provinces, by their mineral and other resources, added to their peculiarly favorable position, will certainly receive large increases to their population. Thus would the great wave of civilization flow through British North America, surging onward, and onward, until kindred hearts on the shores of the Pacific found themselves indissolubly connected with those on the shores of the Atlantic and Gulf of St. Lawrence,—forming a grand link in a commercial chain, uniting Europe with China and Japan.

"From what has preceded there can be little or no difficulty in determining what kind of settlers are required, and most likely to prosper in British North America. Let the enterprising capitalist and manufacturer come; let patient persevering farmers come; let the industrious miner come; let the skilful mechanic and artisan come;—and all their energies will conspire to build up a great and prosperous country. The experience of late years in the United States is, that new regions cannot be rapidly and efficiently settled, by individuals or single families plunging, so to speak, into the dense forest, and, axe in hand, hewing out their future destiny. Organised emigration has been successfully tried; friends and neighbours, by fifties and hundreds, have banded themselves together, for mutual help,—taking with them schoolmasters and ministers of the gospel,—and towns and villages have thus sprung up in a day, the people carrying all the concomitants of civilization with them.

"In closing these suggestive remarks on a most important subject, it need only be further added, that if proper arrangements were made to give reliable information in Great Britain as to what the resources of British America are, and how capital might be safely (not speculatively) invested,—to explain the wealth of its resources, the productiveness of its soil, and the character of its climate,—there would come hither from the Mother-Country multitudes of immigrants, (not in transitu, but as *settlers*,) during the next ten years; and the money they would bring with them, would amount to a sum sufficient to build the Inter-Colonial Railway, and continue it onward to Westminster in British Columbia."

In re-casting the paper from which the foregoing is an extract, it is proposed to show, with as much brevity as possible,—

I.—WHAT IMMIGRATION HAS DONE FOR THE UNITED STATES.

Increase of Population.—It has been calculated that the average yearly increase of population in the United States, without immigration, would have been 1.38 per cent. In England the ratio is said to be 1.25; in France, 0.44; in Russia, 0.74; in Prussia, 1.17; in Holland, 1.23; in Belgium, 0.61; in Portugal, 0.72; and in Saxony, 1.08. Frederick Kapp, Esq., one of the Emigration Commissioners of New York, has made the following calculation: In 1790, the whole white and free-colored population of the United States was 3,231,930,—which, if only increased by 1.38 per annum, the average excess of births over deaths would have amounted,—

In 1800, to	3,706,674,	while in fact it was (exclusive of slaves),	4,412,896
1810,	4,251,143,	"	"
1820,	4,875,600,	"	"
1830,	5,591,775,	"	"
1840,	6,413,161,	"	"
1850,	7,355,423,	"	"
1860,	8,435,882,	"	"
1865,	9,034,245,	"	about 30,000,000

Deducting 9,034,245 from 30,000,000, the remainder, or 20,965,755, represents the population of foreign extraction gained by the United States since 1790. If, therefore, the influx of aliens had been stopped in that year, the population in 1865 would have been very nearly what it actually was in 1826; so that immigration has enabled that country to anticipate its natural growth some forty years.

Mr. Kapp further says:—The increase of wealth in every branch of national activity, has been in the exact ratio of the increase of population. Official statistics show, indeed, that the augmentation of imports, exports, tonnage, and revenues, has been most rapid during the periods of the largest immigration. The following tables give proof of this fact:

	Imports.	Exports.	Tonnage.	Revenues.
1800..	\$ 91,252,768	\$ 70,971,780	972,492	\$12,451,184
1810..	85,400,000	66,757,974	1,424,783	12,144,206
1820..	74,450,000	69,691,699	1,280,166	20,881,493
1830..	70,876,920	73,819,508	1,191,776	24,844,116
1840..	131,571,950	104,805,891	2,120,764	25,032,193
1850..	178,136,318	151,898,720	3,535,454	47,649,388
1860..	362,168,941	400,122,293	5,353,868	76,752,034

The number of immigrants between 1819 and 1829 was.....	128,502
" " " 1830 and 1839	538,381
" " " 1839 and 1849	1,427,337
" " " 1849—Dec. 31, 1860	2,968,194

Total in 41½ years..... 5,062,414

Inducements to Emigrants from Europe.—The preferences of emigrants from Europe to the United States, are neither to be accounted for by political sympathy, nor climatic attraction; they are to be attributed to the inducements held out to all who desire to better their condition in life. Apart altogether from the *ex parte* statements of agents, the intelligent artisans in Europe find the real inducement to emigrate in the following facts :—

One of the earliest movements made by the Government of the United States after the war of independence, was to procure from the States of New York, Virginia, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Georgia, &c., the cession of certain lands, (embracing a tract of more than 1,000 miles square,) which were thereafter designated the North-Western Territory; and for the purpose of promoting its settlement, Congress provided for the sale of homesteads to actual settlers,—generally consisting of a quarter section, or 160 acres, at the minimum rate of \$1.25 per acre. It was also enacted that, in disposing of the public lands, the sixteenth section in every township should be set apart for the advancement of education, and this portion came to be known as the “school lands.” When Nebraska Territory was organized, the Act provided that the sixteenth and thirty-sixth sections of each township should be “school lands,”—and in more recently organized territories this principle is believed to have been adopted. Subsequently, Congress made liberal grants of public lands to aid in making wagon-roads and railways,—one most notable example being the Illinois Central Railway. In 1862, provision was made for giving portions of the public domain to build up or endow agricultural and mechanical colleges; and in 1862 and 1864 the crowning act was to grant homesteads [quarter-sections] to actual settlers,—the only charge being the nominal sum of \$10, to cover expense of survey, &c. Under such legislation as is here referred to, the free disposal of the public lands by the Federal Government until 30th September, 1865, had been as follows :

For works of internal improvement and schools.....	130,375,000	acres.
“ Wagon and rail roads (estimated).....	125,300,000	“
“ Military services (reaching back to the Revolution).....	68,000,000	“
“ Agricultural and Mechanical Colleges.....	9,330,000	“
Swamp Lands conceded to the various States.....	45,319,000	“
	378,824,000	acres.

The quantity of public lands disposed of by the United States Government during fifteen months,—from 1st July, 1864, to 30th September, 1865,—amounted to 5,394,329 acres, the revenue being \$1,038,490.78. The following statement shows the quantities of public lands donated and sold during two recent fiscal years :

	Acres in 1868-69.	Acres in 1869-70.
Cash sales.....	2,899,544	2,159,515
Locations of military bounty-land warrants..	449,780	512,360
Homestead entries	2,737,365	3,698,910
Agricultural College scrip locations.....	352,664	192,848
Certified for Railways.....	746,769	{ 996,685
Certified for Wagon-roads.....		
Approved to States as swamp-lands	455,768	481,638
Indian scrip locations	24,259	16,827
	7,666,151	8,095,413

The homestead entries in 1869-70 show that 23,118 actual settlers,—doubtless heads of families,—became proprietors of free land in that year.

The cost of making homestead entries on the public lands is shown in the following table :

No. of Acres entered.	Price per Acre	COMMISSIONS.		FEES.	Total
		Payable when entry is made.	Payable when certi- ficate issues	Payable when entry is made	Fees and Com'missions
100	\$1.25	\$4.00	\$4.00	\$10.00	\$18.00
80	1.25	2.00	2.00	5.00	9.00
40	1.25	1.00	1.00	5.00	7.00
80	2.50	4.00	4.00	10.00	18.00
40	2.50	2.00	2.00	5.00	9.00
100	\$1.25	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$10.00	\$22.00
80	1.25	3.00	3.00	5.00	11.00
40	1.25	1.50	1.50	5.00	8.00
80	2.50	6.00	6.00	10.00	22.00
40	2.50	3.00	3.00	5.00	11.00

NOTE.—The fees and commissions in the upper half of the table apply to homestead entries on surveyed lands in Michigan, Wisconsin, Iowa, Missouri, Minnesota, Kansas, Nebraska, Dakota, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, and Florida;—those in the lower half to surveyed lands in California, Nevada, Oregon, Colorado, New Mexico, Washington, Arizona, Idaho, Utah, Wyoming, and Montana.

How Immigrants are cared for at New York.—The Castle-Garden Depot includes the following Departments:—1. A department for the boarding of ships on arrival at quarantine,—an officer ascertaining number of passengers, hearing complaints, &c., &c. 2. The landing department, which provides for the careful transfer of passengers, luggage, &c., to the main building. 3. The registering department, where name, nationality, destination, &c., are recorded. 4. The railway department, where the immigrants can procure passage, without risk of fraud or extortion, to all places in the United States and Canada. 5. Baggage delivery department, for transfer of baggage from ship-board to the depot, railway stations, or places in the city. 6. Exchange department, certain Brokers being admitted, who exchange specie, &c. 7. The information department, to enable immigrants to communicate with friends. 8. The letter-writing department. 9. Boarding House department, keepers of such places for immigrants being under careful supervision. 10. The forwarding department receives remittances from friends of persons either before or after arrival, and applies them as directed. 11. The Ward's Island, or hospital department. 12. The labor exchange department, where immigrants desiring work, and persons desiring laborers or others, find ample opportunity for supplying their wants. 13. The General Agent's office, where is transacted all the executive business of the Commission. 14. The Treasurer's department, which is sub-divided for (1.) correspondence of all kinds,—(2.) money affairs,—and (3.) business with the Counties and Institutions.

What the Immigrants do in return.—In a recent report to Congress the Commissioner of the U. S. General Land Office said:—"The rapid extension of our western settlements is largely due to the influx of foreign immigration. The annual accessions from this source show a decided increase to our population. Though partially arrested by the late civil war, the return of peace has expanded this popular movement to larger proportions than ever. From correspondence on file it appears that a more than usual proportion of the intelligent and moneyed classes of Europe have become interested in our extraordinary resources. This improved character of foreign immigration, there is reason to believe, is mainly due to the distribution, at the Paris Exposition of 1867, of brief reports on the resources of the United States, and by the circulation by the State Department of official information on the subject throughout Europe . . . We now see an increasing annual import of capital and skilled labor, enabling us to give a

more varied and remunerative character to our industry, by engaging in the higher and more elaborate processes of art. This enlargement of the scope of our home activity will ultimately result in benefits which, as yet, we are entirely unable to appreciate."

An important consideration is the average cash capital in possession of the immigrants. Officials at Washington have made different estimates of the amount. Hon. Edwd. Young is of opinion that \$68 *per capita* is a fair average.—Hon. D. A. Wells says \$80; while Mr. Kapp, whose opinion is entitled to the highest consideration, thinks \$100 nearer the mark. The latter gentleman says:—"The money, however, is not the only property which immigrants bring with them. In addition to it, they have a certain amount of wearing apparel, tools, watches, books, and jewelry. Assuming that their cash amounts to only \$100 a head, I do not think I exaggerate in estimating their other property at \$50,—thus making \$150 the total of the personal property of each immigrant." If Mr. Kapp is correct, (and his conclusions are accepted by the Commissioner of the U. S. General Land Office), then the very large amount of \$37,500,000 was added to the cash capital of the U. S. by 250,000 immigrants who landed at the port of New York during 1869. It is also reckoned, on the same basis, that, since the policy of naturalising aliens was adopted, the sum of one thousand millions of dollars has been brought to the United States by the in-flowing tide of foreigners.

But a still more striking consideration is added by Mr. Kapp, when he averages the *economic* value of each immigrant at \$1,125, and infers, therefore, that the addition of value by foreign immigration has amounted to at least *five billions of dollars*,—or according to the present ratio of immigration, at least \$1,000,000 per day.

II.—EFFLUX OF POPULATION FROM GREAT BRITAIN.

The number of emigrants from Great Britain to all other countries during a period of 45 years,—1815 to 1859,—was 4,917,598. There has been a larger exodus of late years, as will be seen by the following official figures for a period of 20 years:

YEARS.	To N. American Colonies.	To United States.	To Australian Colonies and New Zealand.	To, other Places.	TOTAL.
1851	42,605	267,357	21,532	4,472	335,966
1852	32,873	244,261	87,881	3,749	368,764
1853	34,522	230,885	61,401	3,129	329,937
1854	43,761	193,065	83,237	3,366	323,429
1855	17,966	103,414	52,309	3,118	176,807
1856	13,378	111,837	44,584	3,755	176,554
1857	21,001	126,905	61,248	3,721	212,875
1858	9,704	59,716	39,295	5,257	113,972
1859	3,689	70,303	31,013	12,427	120,432
1860	9,786	87,500	24,302	6,881	128,469
1861	12,707	49,764	23,738	5,561	91,770
1862	15,522	58,706	41,843	5,143	121,214
1863	18,083	146,813	53,054	5,808	223,758
1864	12,721	147,042	40,942	8,195	208,900
1865	17,211	147,258	37,283	8,049	209,801
1866	13,255	161,000	24,097	6,550	204,882
1867	15,503	159,275	14,466	6,709	195,953
1868	21,062	155,532	12,809	6,922	196,325
1869	33,891	203,001	14,901	6,234	258,027
1870	35,295	196,075	17,065	8,505	256,940
	430,535	2,919,709	787,000	117,531	4,254,775

According to this table, 4,254,775 persons emigrated from Great Britain during the past twenty years,—of whom 68.62 per cent., or 2,919,709, went to the United States, while only 10.10 per cent., or 430,535, came to the British North American Provinces,—18.52 per cent., or 787,000, having gone to the antipodes, and 2.76 per cent., or 117,531, to other countries.

III.—ARRIVAL OF IMMIGRANTS IN CANADA DURING ELEVEN YEARS.

Number of Immigrants arriving at Quebec *via* River St. Lawrence during the season of the respective years 1860 to 1870.

Year.	Number of Immigrants <i>via</i> Quebec.	NATIONALITIES.						TOTAL NATIONALITIES.			NUMBER OF IMMIGRANTS.	
		English.	Irish.	Scotch.	German.	N'rwegian	Other Countries.	British.	Foreign.	Total.	Per Steamers.	Per Sailing Vessels.
1860	10,150	2,491	2,831	1,850	725	1,809	444	7,172	2,978	10,150	6,932	3,218
1861	19,923	3,574	3,180	2,015	2,040	8,668	446	8,769	11,154	19,923	7,535	12,388
1862	22,176	5,180	5,468	3,026	2,516	5,289	697	13,674	8,502	22,176	12,466	9,710
1863	19,419	4,830	5,508	3,949	3,047	1,416	669	14,287	5,132	19,419	13,480	5,939
1864	19,147	3,143	5,084	2,320	2,262	5,525	813	10,547	8,600	19,147	10,732	8,415
1865	21,355	5,070	6,836	2,112	2,096	4,382	859	14,018	7,337	21,355	16,433	4,922
1866	28,648	3,380	3,422	2,074	4,013	14,968	791	8,876	19,772	28,648	11,539	17,109
1867	30,757	5,151	4,260	1,827	3,773	13,173	2,573	11,238	19,519	30,757	14,178	16,579
1868	34,300	6,497	3,563	1,937	5,068	16,031	1,204	11,997	22,303	34,300	20,537	13,773
1869	43,114	27,876	2,743	2,867	1,073	8,533	2	33,486	9,628	43,114	33,440	9,674
1870	44,475	27,183	2,534	5,356	411	8,985	6	35,073	9,402	44,475	31,747	12,723

The following statement shows the number of immigrant arrivals during the last five years at all points of the Dominion, in so far as the Government Agents have been able to obtain information :

	1866.	1867.	1868.	1869.	1870.	1871.
Via the St. Lawrence.....	28,648	30,757	34,300	43,114	44,475	
" the Suspension Bridge and inland Ports of Ontario and Quebec.....	23,147	25,631	36,511	30,326	23,857	
" Halifax		781	366	448	437	
" St. John, New Brunswick.....		409	271	456	219	
" Miramichi				21	31	
Total.....	51,795	57,578	71,448	74,365	69,019	

On the same authority, the number of immigrants who settled in Canada during five years, and the numbers merely passing through, were as follows :

	No. of Settlers.	No. in transit.
1866	10,091	41,704
1867	14,666	47,212
1868	12,765	58,683
1869	18,630	57,202
1870	24,706	44,313
1871		

In view of the results shown in these tables (and the figures are official), it can hardly be wondered at that unfavorable criticisms have been from time to time uttered, respecting the seeming lack of efficiency in the machinery employed by the Department of Immigration in Canada. As mere criticism, however, is not the object of this paper, the suggestions made in the following Section are submitted with some hesitancy, and not as containing anything new or remarkable, but as the result of experience and observation,—simply in the hope of assisting to direct public effort into the right channel.

IV.—HOW MAY CANADA BE BENEFITTED BY IMMIGRATION ?

The main purpose, in some of the foregoing pages, has been to adduce facts to show the magnitude of the stream of emigration from the Old to the New World,—and to indicate the immense value of immigration to the United States,—with a view to stimulate to adequate exertions to cause a deflection to some extent of that stream towards Canada. The writer has to acknowledge here the kindness of B. Casserly, Esq., Superintendent of Emigration at Castle-Garden, New York, in favoring him with documents from which some of the facts were obtained. Of course, in the article published in 1866, to which reference has already been made in the opening portion of this paper, the free lands in Canada were referred to. The arrangements made since Confederation, by the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec, for free-grant lands to heads of families and others in certain circumstances, are very liberal and well worth the attention of Immigrants. The present remarks apply more particularly to the general policy of the Dominion Government respecting the vast tracts of agricultural, mineral, and other lands, now brought under its control by the extension of the country from the Atlantic to the Pacific. With reference to the inquiry,—How may the Dominion be benefitted by Immigration ?—it is far better to be able to refer to results elsewhere, than to rely upon a mere theoretical reply ; and it is believed that the reflective reader will

experience no difficulty in concluding that,—the whole circumstances of the two countries being not dissimilar so far as immigration from the north of Europe is interested,—what has been productive of such immense results to the United States, could not fail to benefit Canada. (1.) The climate of Canada is as favorable for the European emigrant, as is that of the Northern States; (2.) there is plenty of good land for agricultural purposes to admit of the Dominion Government adopting a free homestead policy, as well as to admit of liberal grants to railways, &c.; and (3.) there are numerous public works to be entered upon, railways, canals, &c., which will afford abundant employment to multitudes of new comers. Given for Canada the same persistent, systematic agitation, — similar inducements to immigrants, and the same fostering care for them on landing, as in the neighboring Republic,—and it cannot reasonably be doubted that great results would follow.

The first consideration, then, is how to introduce population into the vast tracts of arable land in the interior of the Dominion. Government should at the outset adopt the system of free homestead grants to actual settlers, by pre-emption,—the grant to be completed after five years of occupancy,—the pre-emptor to pay only a small fixed sum to reimburse the expense of survey, entry, &c. The policy as regards grants of land to railway enterprises should also be liberal. These grants, as heretofore in the United States, should be in alternate sections,—the companies being, in their turn, bound to grant a certain number of acres of their free lands [say ten acres,] to each mechanic or laborer who shall have been employed during two years in constructing their roads. Railway Companies would in this way be prevented from holding up all their lands for speculative purposes,—while the enhanced value of the lands consequent upon improvement by settlers would be participated in by the Government.

With such a basis for disposal of the Public Lands, there would, it is believed, be little or no difficulty in inducing the coming hither of bands of laboring men and agriculturalists to work upon the Pacific Railway, and upon its eastern connections. It must not be overlooked, however, that discretion on the part of the Emigration Agents in Europe is of incalculable importance. There must be discrimination exercised,—pauperised immigrants are not to be desired,—and perhaps much of the “assisted” emigration should be discouraged. Every inducement should be given to those who have willing, hopeful hearts, strong arms, and good constitutions, to come hither and assist in laying, broad and deep, the foundations of civil and commercial prosperity.

A great step towards inducing desirable classes of immigrants, would be for the Dominion Government to commence upon an extensive scale the work of improving the channels of internal navigation,—the Rivers St. Lawrence and Ottawa with their existing and projected systems of Canals,—a new Welland Canal being a desideratum. These would offer abundant inducements to mechanics and laborers,—holding out a sure prospect of employment immediately upon arrival.

While the free-homestead grants would induce agriculturalists and laborers to push their way into the interior, facilities for settlement nearer the centres of population ought, if possible, to be afforded to organized parties intending to settle *en bloc*, by entering, so to speak, upon municipal life from the outset of their career in this New World. Such companies of settlers would, of course, include mechanics and artisans of various classes, farmers, laborers, school teachers, and ministers of the gospel,—carrying with them into the forest, or out upon the prairie, the amenities, comforts, and enjoyments of the homes they had left in the Old World.

The objective point for such immigrant parties would always be determined before-hand; there ought, therefore, to be a guide or conductor waiting for each company on arrival, whose sole duty it would be to pilot it by the most direct travelled route to

their destination, determining for them the proper places for transient rest, refreshment, &c.

For the purpose of managing the Immigration service systematically and economically, the Dominion Minister of Immigration might appoint a Board of Commissioners, whose first duty would be to establish a capacious receiving depot, say at Point Levi, with the accompanying Departments as existing at Castle-Garden, in New York City. The proceeds of the *per capita* tax should be handed over to the Commissioners, to be applied towards maintaining their establishment.

With the view of inducing the right class of emigrants from Europe to come to Canada, the Agents of the Government should apply themselves especially to the "northern races," as best adapted to endure the mutations of climate which are experienced. The duties of Agents in Great Britain or other countries, should be to give full and reliable information on all points relating to settlement in any of the Provinces,—explaining the advantages to be derived from emigration in companies; and a "HAND-BOOK FOR CANADA" should be prepared, embodying classified information relating to each of the Provinces in the Dominion.

Such a book, carefully prepared, and scattered broad-cast in Europe, would be of immense service. It should contain brief statements on the following topics:—1st, Historical notices relating to the Government of the Dominion and of the Provinces; 2nd, Remarks on the Soil, Climate, and Mineral resources of Canada,—specifying Coal, Salt, Iron, Copper, Silver, Gold, &c.; 3rd, Natural Productions—Grain, Timber, &c.; 4th, Industrial enterprises,—Agriculture, Commerce, and Manufactures; 5th, Water Power; 6th, Internal Navigation, and Railway and Canal communication with the Interior; 7th, Postal and Telegraphic service; 8th, Revenue and Taxation of the Dominion and Provinces; 9th, Wages, and the purchasing power of money; 10th, Religion, Education, &c.

The proposed *Guide Book* ought also to contain Directions and Advice for Emigrants from the Old World,—indicating who may emigrate,—suggesting arrangements, when and how to go,—what to do on arrival,—how most economically, all things considered, to reach different localities,—tables of steamboat and railway fares,—setting forth also in detail the special arrangements made for reception of immigrants, &c., &c.

A work containing such information as above suggested,—if frequently revised to keep the information *fresh*, as well as to admit of embodying the experience of those who may come to Canada,—would be the *right arm of the service*, and perhaps do more to promote the prosperity of the Dominion by the immigration it would induce, than all other agencies put together.

Particular Schemes.—In bringing these general remarks to a close, the writer is of opinion, that it would be out of place to encumber his paper with details of what he may think to be a preferable scheme, for promoting the bringing hither of colonies of settlers from the Old World. For the same reason, he thinks it inexpedient to particularise any of the colonization projects which have been promulgated, however feasible they may appear to be;—leaving the statements and suggestions to influence as they may the mind of the reader.